



REMARKS

Claims 1- 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 21-38 have been added and are pending.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment presents no new issues or new matter and places this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

In the Previous Office Action, the Examiner rejected the pending claims in view of Howson et al, either as anticipated or as obvious in view of Howson and other prior art. Applicants' invention, as presently claimed, is directed to an apparatus for use in self-treatment of a disease or condition and is neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited prior art.

Applicants' apparatus comprises at least two devices and is useful where the self-treatment comprises several process steps. At least two devices are needed to carry out the process. For example, in the case of diabetes treatment, one main device that makes up the apparatus might be an insulin delivery device, such as a doser. In accordance with Applicants invention, the doser would contain all the software and other electronic resources necessary to perform injection of insulin. The apparatus according to the claimed invention might also contain a blood glucose monitor, however, as claimed, the monitor would not be a stand-alone unit and would be inoperable without the use of at least some of the software or electronics of the main doser device. The resources envision would be more than just a mere sharing of a power source, although the power source could be shared.

In rejecting the previously pending claims, the Examiner relied upon Howson et al. for disclosing a drug delivery device with a delivery unit and a basis unit with an electronic controller. In particular, the Examiner noted that Howson et al. discloses a syringe that is controlled by a controller that can communicate with an electronic module or the patient.

As presently claimed, the present invention contains features not shown or obvious in view of the prior art. In particular, Howson et al. discloses a controller that controls four drivers/syringes. But it does not disclose a main device that can function as a stand-alone unit and a separate further device or secondary device that is inoperable absent the sharing of resources with the stand-alone device. In the case of Howson et al., should no syringe/driver be connected to the controller, the controller is inoperable and incapable of performing a process step for providing

- medical treatment. In contrast, Applicants invention comprises a main device that is fully functional and performs at least one function and also comprises a secondary device that uses the resources of the main device, at least in part, to carry out its respective function.

In addition, the presently pending claims are all directed to a hand-held discrete dose medication delivery device. These features are not present in the cited references. None of the cited art discloses a first stand-alone device that contains a controller and/or other resource that allow that device to perform a specific function while also providing the resources for a secondary device that would otherwise be inoperable but for the fact that it can share the resources of the primary device and exchange data with the primary device.

Applicants respectfully note that Eggers et al., along with the other cited art, does not disclose a master module that not only is interfaceable with sensors or other modules, but also is necessary for the operation of these other modules. In particular, Eggers et al. discloses that the functional units are internally programmed and controlled so that they require only power and interfacing functionality from the interface unit. Clearly, the main device of the present invention provides resources other than just power and interfacing functionality for the secondary device. Moreover, Eggers et al., like Howson et al., and the other cited art, fails to disclose a hand-held main device that is operable without the secondary devices being coupled to it. Eggers et al. at column 2, lines 11-14, discloses that an interface unit removably attached to a plurality of patient functional units. In contrast, Applicants invention is a functional, complete unit that can share its resources with secondary units that allow the secondary units to function. If no secondary units are connected to the interface unit, the unit does not perform a process step associated with self-treatment of a medical condition.

Finally, applicants note that none of the cited art suggests, discloses or renders obvious a method of allowing a user to build a medical apparatus to treat the user's medical condition with the minimum number of components and resources that are necessary. Likewise, the prior art does not provided for a kit that allows the user to build such an apparatus. In none of the cited art, are the apparatuses built by a user who is self treating a medical condition. The present invention provides a user with the ability to customize a portable apparatus for treating the user's specific condition and does so efficiently by not requiring that each device in the apparatus contain a duplicative set of resources but instead provides for efficiently sharing resources between at least two

devices within the apparatus. Because the present invention allows for user customization, the user is capable of defining the self-treatment first and then constructing the apparatus to assist in the self treatment. Moreover, the user is free to add functionality without duplication of resources. These attributes do not exist in the prior art.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this application and to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1447. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,



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